

IN RECOGNITION OF “NATIONAL ARSON AWARENESS WEEK”

WHEREAS, Arson is a serious crime that affects each and every person and can only be stopped when citizens realize the severe damage that arson causes; and

WHEREAS, Cities, communities and neighborhoods are blighted by Arson which results in erosion of the tax base and loss of employment; and

WHEREAS, Arson has disrupted our educational and manufacturing systems with the destruction of irreplaceable buildings and artifacts; and

WHEREAS, Natural resources are rendered useless for long periods of time or are completely destroyed; and

WHEREAS, Needless human injuries and deaths are caused acts of Arson; and

WHEREAS, A large percentage of property insurance premiums are used to cover the losses from Arson, and tax dollars must be used to pay for fire extinguishment and the investigation of these malicious acts, which is a senseless waste of our precious resources when the majority of the public must directly bare the burden of an individuals criminal action; and

WHEREAS, The financial loss annually due to Arson reaches billions of dollars, which does not include indirect losses, both emotional and financial, including funerals, medical and legal cost, wages, business interruption, fire fighting and law enforcement efforts which together exceed the direct losses many fold; and

WHEREAS, Public awareness is one of the specific responsibilities of the International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Young, Mayor of the City of Augusta, do hereby proclaim May 4 – 10, 2003 to be “ARSON AWARENESS WEEK” in Augusta, Georgia and urge all citizens to recognize this week.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Augusta, Georgia to be affixed this 7th day of May 2003.